

March 10, 2017

Mr. Larry Goldzband, Executive Director
Bay Conservation and Development Commission
455 Golden Gate Avenue, Suite 10600
San Francisco, CA 94102-7019
larry.goldzband@bcdc.ca.gov

Dear Mr. Goldzband,

I write regarding the Westpoint Marina in Redwood City, and the Westpoint Slough. I am a member of Citizens Committee to Complete the Refuge ("Citizens"), and submit these comments on my own behalf and on behalf of Citizens. I understand that Citizens has been aware of the Westpoint Marina project since at least 2001 when Citizens submitted comments to Redwood City regarding the Negative Declaration and Use Permit for the Westpoint Marina.

As background, I am a birder and have been making frequent visits to the general area of Westpoint Marina and the Westpoint Slough to conduct research on waterbirds since February 2012. Westpoint Slough is adjacent to the Don Edwards San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge's Greco Island.

I have organized my comments below to document my observations of Westpoint Slough, the absence of buoys in Westpoint Slough, the introduction of commercial ferries in the Slough and the absence of information signs at the Westpoint Marina.

Absence of Buoys in Westpoint Slough

From the adjacent Pacific Shores Center public access walkway I have observed, and taken photos of, Westpoint Slough on the dates and times listed below:

August 3, 2012	10:02 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.	See attached Photo A
July 12, 2013	12:23 p.m. - 1:27 p.m.	See attached Photos B1 and B2
July 17, 2014	12:10 p.m. - 12:41 p.m.	See attached Photos C1 and C2
November 19, 2014	11:45 a.m. - 11:46 a.m.	See attached Photos D1 to D3
February 10, 2015	4:02 p.m. - 4:17 p.m.	See attached Photos E1 to E4
December 11, 2016	4:12 p.m. - 4:29 p.m.	See attached Photos F1 and F2.

In addition, on February 27, 2017 between 12:00 p.m. and 12:18 p.m., I took a series of photographs of Westpoint Slough from the adjacent Pacific Shores Center public walkway looking towards Greco Island (**see Photos G1 – G4 attached hereto**).

Based on my personal observations of the Westpoint Slough over the past five years, and as documented in the attached photos, I believe there have never been any buoys installed either down the centerline of the Westpoint Slough identifying a "No Wake" speed zone, or

delineating the center of the channel for adequate draw, and to discourage boats from deviating off the navigable channel.

In addition, I have never observed a buoy system in Westpoint Slough 100 feet from the salt marsh on Greco Island with signs informing the public that access into Greco Island or into the marshlands of the San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge is prohibited.

The only buoys I have ever observed in Westpoint Slough is a single buoy with “10 MPH” signage (**see Photo H attached hereto**), and buoys just outside the entrance to the marina.

Introduction of Commercial Ferries in Westpoint Slough

Westpoint Marina was the subject of several news stories in February 2016 when PROP, a private commercial ferry service, began operating ferries between Tiburon and Emeryville and Westpoint Marina. Citizens became concerned about potential impacts to Westpoint Slough and Greco Island when we read an article on the Redwood City Bair Island Aquatic Center website (www.gobair.org) about problems with small boats being swamped by the “high speed” ferries.

An excerpt from the article posted on the website (<https://www.gobair.org/resources/Summary-Of-The-Ferry-Issue-March-2016.pdf>) is below:

Summary of the Ferry issue, March 2016

High speed passenger ferry service to Westpoint marina has been operating for a few months and there have been some problems with small boats, including swamping large rowing shells and flipping smaller sculling boats. These issues were discussed in a meeting of port users on Mar 8, 2016 and some actions agreed on to improve safety.

The **ferry is hazardous to small boats** in two ways:

Speed – fast enough to give reduced time to see and avoid contact

Wake – it produces an unusual wake that is hazardous to rowing shells and other small boats

The **most critical area is from the mouth of Westpoint slough out to about marker 9**. The ferry operator wants to maintain his schedule and does not want mandated low speed zones.

Schedule – **Weekdays at 8am, 9am, 4:30pm and 6:45pm**, plus or minus 10-15 minutes

Round trips – ferry will go inbound to Westpoint, then outbound around 10 minutes later

On June 6, 2016, between 9:00 and 9:10 a.m., I photographed the PROP catamaran ferry in Westpoint Slough from the public walkway at the Pacific Shores Center property adjacent to Westpoint Marina. The ferry was traveling at a high speed (which I estimate at greater than 10mph) and generating a substantial wake en route to Westpoint Marina (**see Photos I1 and I2 attached hereto**).

The original routes and times for the PROP ferry service to Westpoint Marina may have been altered after the June 6, 2016 photo was taken; however, as recently as March 2, 2017, the company's website (www.propsf.net/public-commuter/) states "More Commuter Service Coming Soon", and identifies three new roundtrip routes between Redwood City and Alameda, Berkeley and San Francisco.

Citizens and I are concerned about impacts to wildlife and the San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge from operating high speed ferry service in Westpoint Slough, particularly in light of the absence of a no wake zone and buoys delineating the center of the channel.

Absence of Information Signs at the Westpoint Marina

Due to lack of public access at the Westpoint Marina, I do not know if posted signs are in place at Westpoint Marina - at the boat launch and other public access areas - regarding the sensitive nature of the Greco Island area as well as access restrictions on Greco Island and other wetlands in the San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge.

In September 2016, I noticed a cargo container for a new business, 101 SURF SPORTS, had been installed on the Westpoint Marina parking lot and the company was open for business. The company website (www.101surfsports.com) states that their location at Westpoint Marina provides, "Stand Up Paddleboard Rentals, Lessons, Tours, and Storage as well as Kayak Rentals, Lessons, Tours, and Storage on San Francisco Bay". The website also features two pictures of the rower's dock at Westpoint Marina. In these website photos, there are no signs visible on the dock advising the customers of 101 SURF SPORTS of the access restrictions on Greco Island and other wetlands in the Refuge.

Thank you for your careful consideration of these matters.

Sincerely,



Matthew Leddy

Citizens Committee to Complete the Refuge

Attachments:

Photo A
Photos B1 and B2
Photos C1 and C2
Photos D1 to D3
Photos E1 to E4
Photos F1 and F2
Photos G1 – G4
Photo H
Photos I1 and I2.

ATTACHMENTS

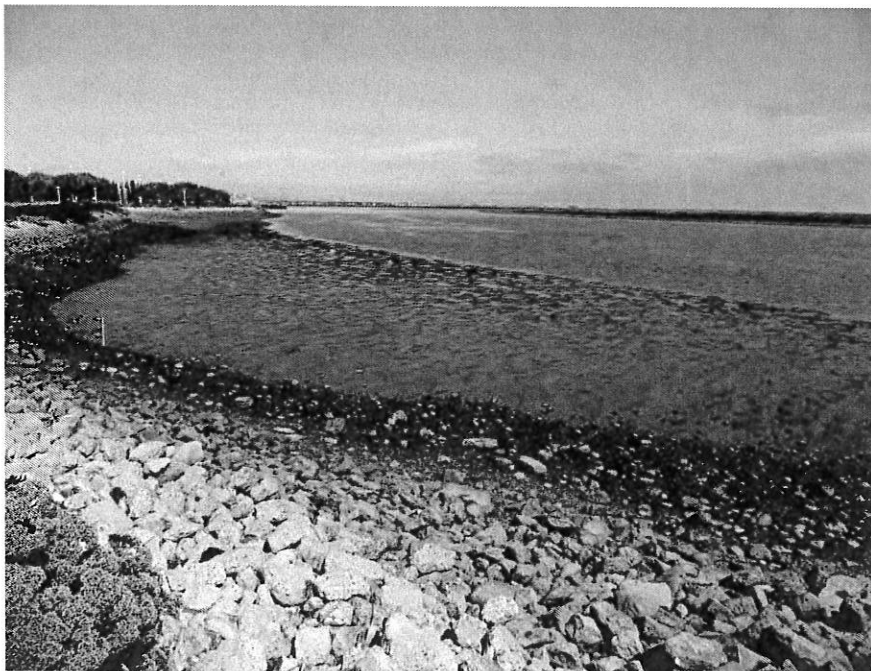


Photo A. August 3, 2012, at 10:18 a.m. Westpoint Slough looking towards confluence with Redwood Creek

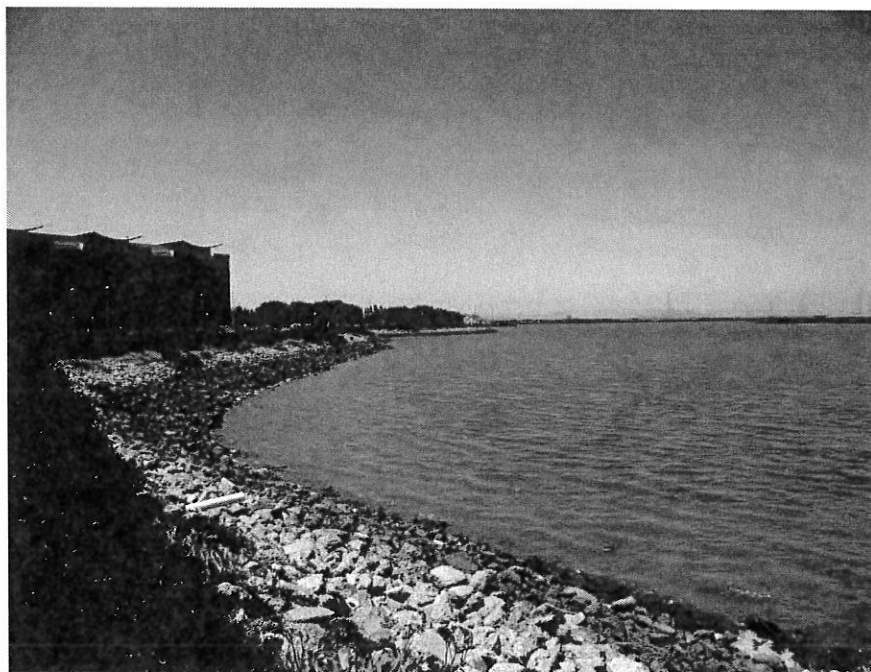


Photo B1. July 12, 2013, at 1:24 p.m. Westpoint Slough looking towards confluence with Redwood Creek



Photo B2. July 12, 2013, at 1:27 p.m. Westpoint Slough looking towards entrance to Westpoint Marina

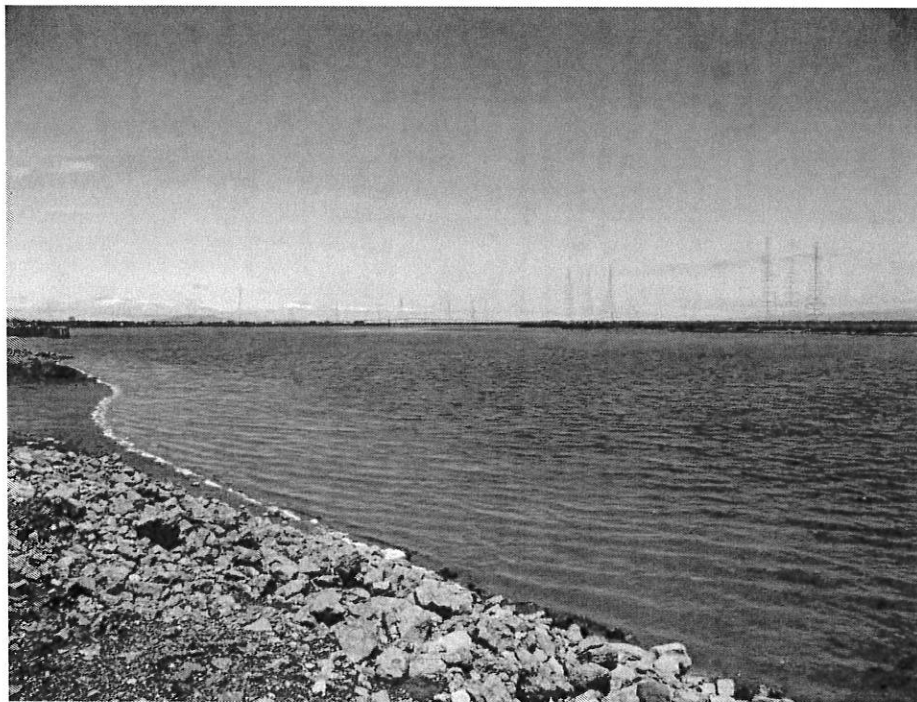


Photo C1. July 17, 2014, at 12:20 p.m. Westpoint Slough looking towards confluence with Redwood Creek

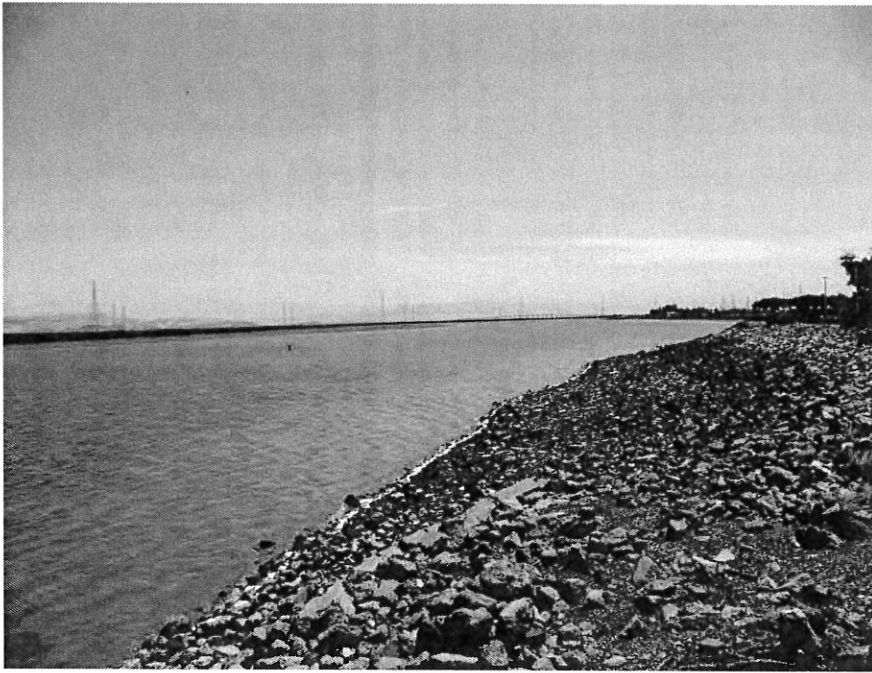


Photo C2. July 17, 2014, at 12:20 p.m. Westpoint Slough looking towards entrance to Westpoint Marina

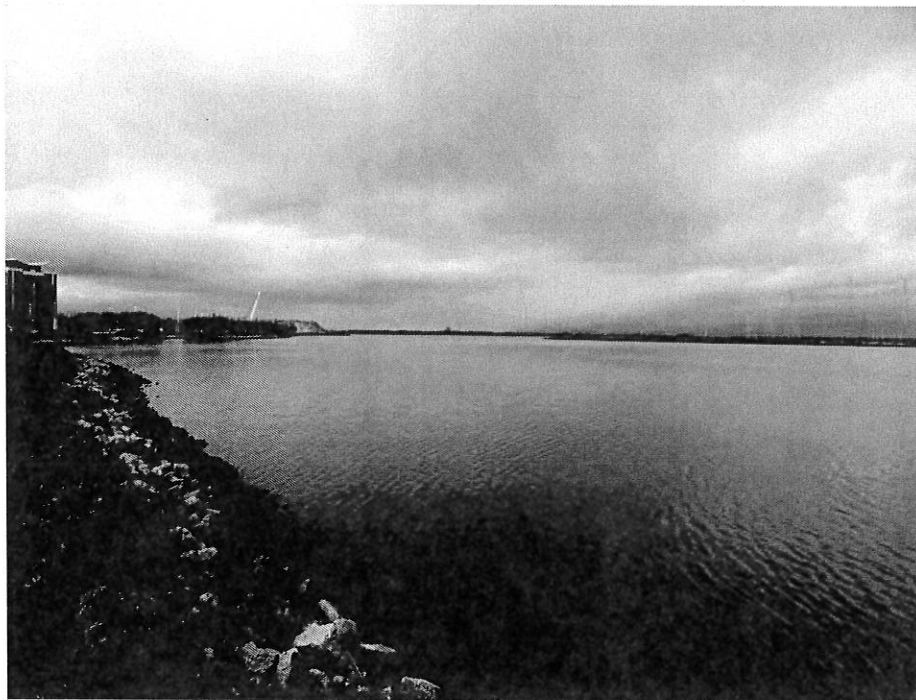


Photo D1. November 19, 2014, at 11:45 a.m. Westpoint Slough looking towards confluence with Redwood Creek



Photo D2. November 19, 2014, at 11:45 a.m. Westpoint Slough looking towards Greco Island



Photo D3. November 19, 2014, at 11:45 a.m. Westpoint Slough looking towards entrance to Westpoint Marina



Photo E1. February 10, 2015, at 4:02 p.m. Westpoint Slough looking towards confluence with Redwood Creek



Photo E2. February 10, 2015, at 4:02 p.m. Westpoint Slough looking towards confluence with Redwood Creek

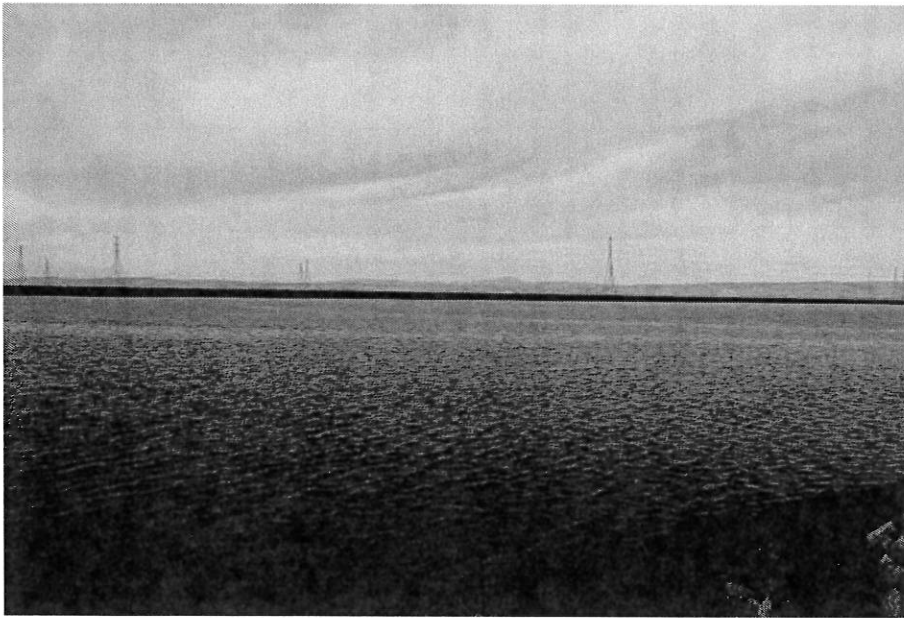


Photo E3. February 10, 2015, at 4:02 p.m. Westpoint Slough looking towards Greco Island



Photo E4. February 10, 2015, at 4:02 p.m. Westpoint Slough looking towards entrance to Westpoint Marina



Photo F1. December 11, 2016 at 4:20 p.m. Westpoint Slough looking towards confluence with Redwood Creek



Photo F2. December 11, 2016 at 4:20 p.m. Westpoint Slough looking towards entrance to Westpoint Marina



Photo G1. February 27, 2017 at 12:09 p.m. Westpoint Slough looking towards confluence with Redwood Creek

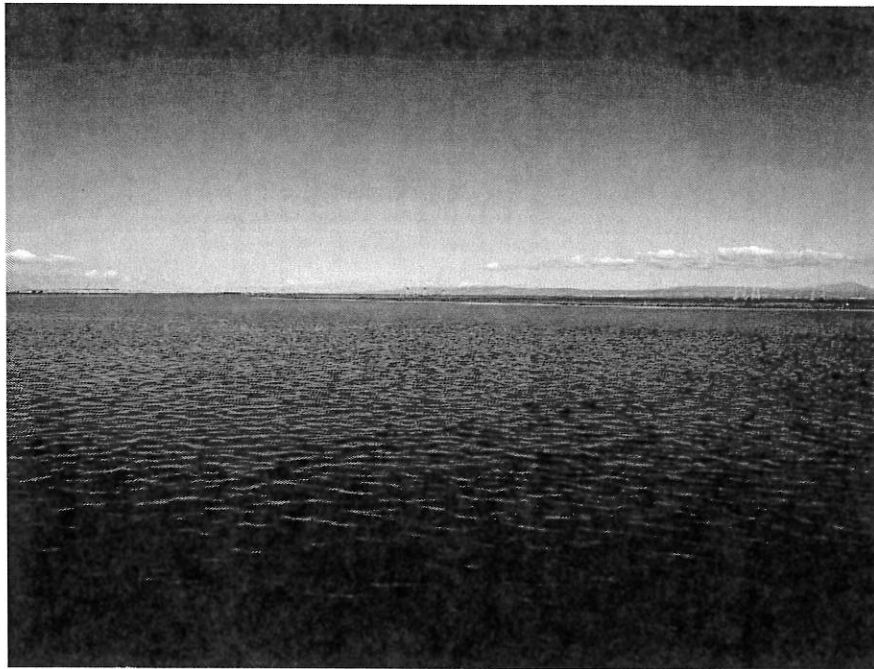


Photo G2. February 27, 2017 at 12:09 p.m. Westpoint Slough looking towards confluence with Redwood Creek

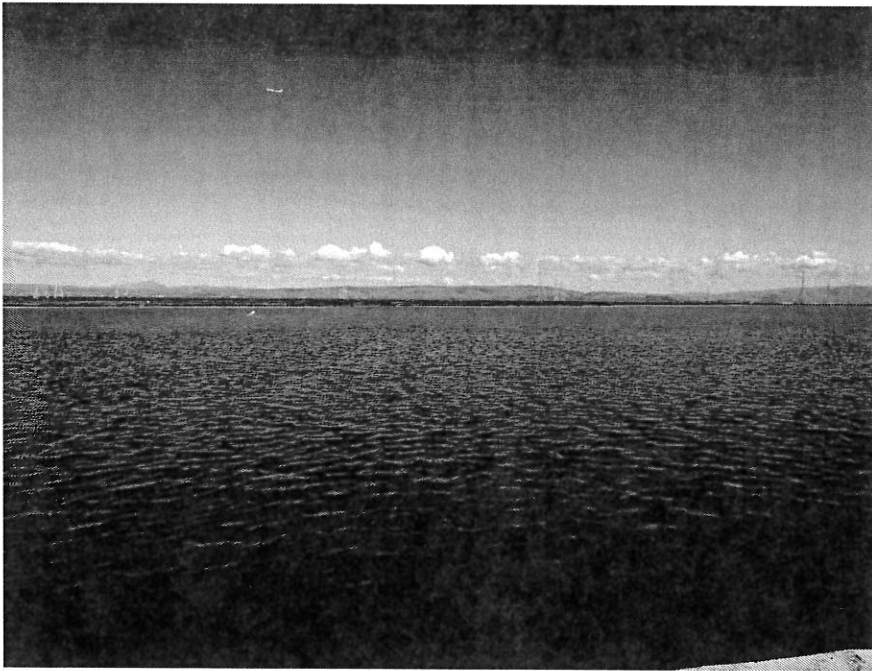


Photo G3. February 27, 2017 at 12:10 p.m. Westpoint Slough looking towards Greco Island

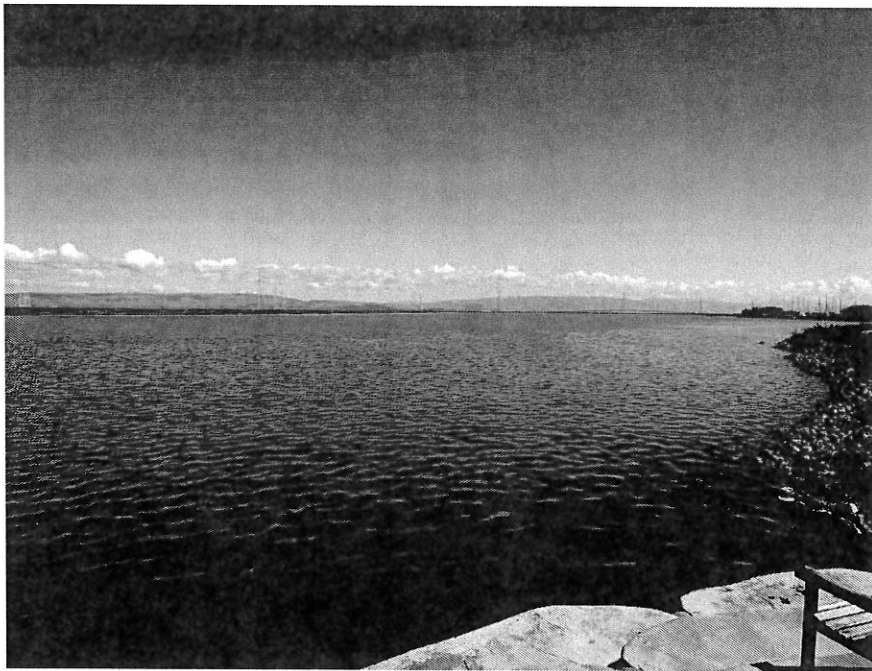


Photo G4. February 27, 2017 at 12:10 p.m. Westpoint Slough looking towards entrance to Westpoint Marina



Photo I2. June 6, 2016 at 9:09 a.m. Westpoint Slough and ferry



Photo H. June 5, 2016 at 3:03 p.m. Westpoint Slough buoy, located at Google Earth location 37°30'58.84"N, 122°12'1.05"W

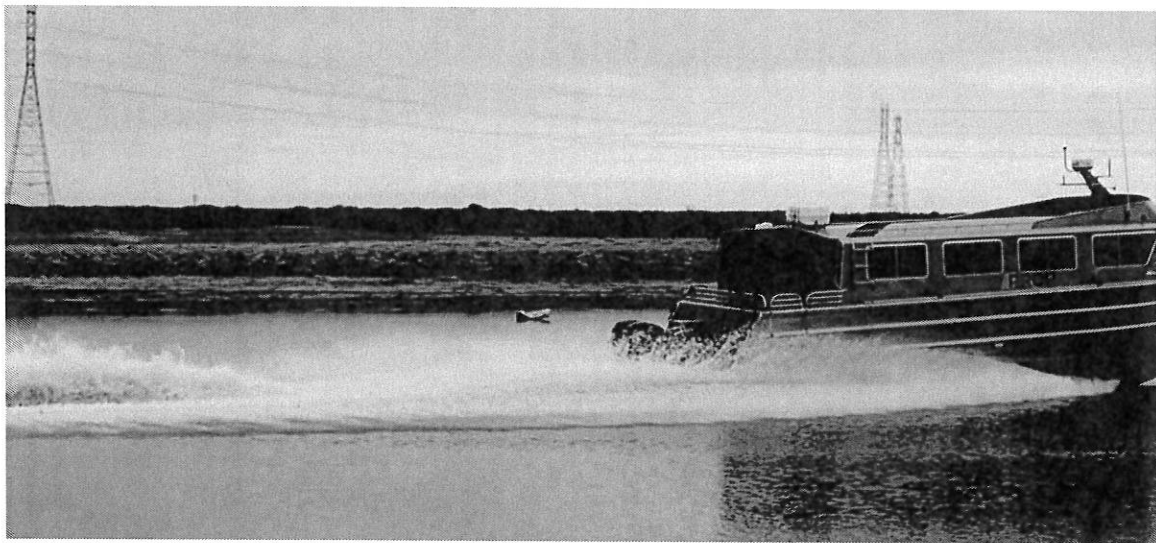


Photo I1. June 6, 2016 at 9:09 a.m. Westpoint Slough, 10 MPH buoy, and ferry